



Volume 1, Issue 2

February 2004

## Speaker names Frommer Assembly Majority Leader

*Assembly Majority Leader will serve as Speaker's top lieutenant.*

**(SACRAMENTO, CA)** – New Assembly Speaker Fabian Nuñez on February 9 named Assemblyman Dario Frommer (D-Glendale) the new Majority Leader of the state Assembly.

"I'm honored Speaker Nuñez has chosen me," Frommer said. "He is looking to restore civility to the chamber, and I hope my ability to work with both sides of the aisle will be an asset to that end."

As Assembly Majority Leader, Frommer will serve as the Speaker's top lieutenant, handling all matters of business on the Assembly Floor and serving as one of the Assembly Democrats' top negotiators.

"I am pleased that Dario and I will be working together to tackle the number of important issues facing the state," Nuñez said. "With his strong leadership and experience, he is an ideal candidate for the position of Assembly Majority Leader." ♦

## Frommer pushes Affordable Prescription Drug Act 2004

*Assemblyman introduces bill package to reduce skyrocketing prescription drug costs.*

**(SACRAMENTO, CA)** – In an effort to fight the rising cost of prescription drugs, Assemblyman Dario Frommer (D-Glendale) introduced the Affordable Prescription Drug Act of 2004 this month, spearheading an effort by the state Legislature to rein in costs that are bleeding the wallets of taxpayers and putting lifesaving drugs out of the reach of many consumers.

*"Americans are paying more for prescription drugs than anyone else in the world. Our tax dollars support much of the research and development drug companies do, yet, many of us can't afford to buy those drugs when we get sick."*

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In 2002, United States consumers paid \$48.6 billion in out-of-pocket costs for prescription



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## Frommer aims to curb camera phone abuse

*Legislation would crack down on criminals who take inappropriate, illegal pictures with new camera phone technology.*

**(GLENDALE, CA)** – Criminals who are misusing camera cell phones to take inappropriate, secret pictures and invading the privacy of citizens could find their behavior harder to get away with if a bill by Assemblyman Dario Frommer (D-Glendale) is signed into law.

Frommer and Assemblywoman Sarah Reyes (D-Fresno) introduced legislation that would require all camera cell phones manufactured or sold in California to make a sound of 65 decibels or louder when a picture is taken. Normal conversation is 50 to 60 decibels.

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*"I want to ensure that no one in California suffers the kind of humiliation and privacy violation that has been popping up all over the country and the world," Frommer said.*

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Frommer's bill comes on the heels of an increasing number of disturbing reports detailing incidents of camera phone misuse, including one about a 20-year-old man in Washington who was arrested for taking photos up a 26-year-old female shopper's skirt at a grocery store. ♦

## Insurance Commissioner Garamendi visits 43<sup>rd</sup> AD

*Frommer hosts forum on workers' compensation at Glendale Library.*

**(GLENDALE, CA)** – Local residents, business owners and employees came together February 6 at the Glendale Central Library to seek solutions to California's workers' compensation crisis at a forum hosted by Assemblyman Dario Frommer (D-Glendale), chairman of the Assembly Select Committee on Small Business.

"The number one concern I've heard from employers across the state is that our current workers' compensation system is devastating California's businesses," Frommer said. "We've already seen about a 3% reduction in our rates as a

result of the major reforms the Legislature made to the compensation system last year. But some rates remain stubbornly high. The question is what more we can do to bring rates down further and faster."



Frommer and audience members heard from a panel of experts, including: California Department of Insurance Commissioner John Garamendi, California Small Business Association President Betty Jo Toccoli, UC Berkeley Data/Survey research Center Project Director Frank Neuhauser and Commission on Health and Safety and Workers' Compensation Executive Director Christine Baker. Frommer also heard from constituents who voiced their concerns and problems with the state's current workers' compensation system. ♦

## Assemblyman Frommer calls on hospital chain to protect patients

*Assemblyman asks for public pledge from Tenet Healthcare Corp., which has announced it will sell 19 of its hospitals.*

**(VAN NUYS, CA)** – Assemblyman Dario Frommer (D-Glendale) hosted a hearing this month at the Marvin Braude Constituent Center in Van Nuys to hear how Tenet Healthcare Corp., a hospital chain slated to sell 19 of its hospitals in the state, plans to protect its patients and employees during the process of the sale.

"Never before in California has a healthcare

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 43<sup>RD</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

#### April 22

Free Self Defense Workshop for Women

New Hope Chapel

2861 Los Feliz Boulevard, Los Feliz

#### April 29

Free Self Defense Workshop for Women

Buena Vista Library

300 North Buena Vista Street, Burbank

#### Thursdays, 9:30 p.m.

“Capitol Connection with Assemblyman Dario Frommer”

Charter Communications Channel 25

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corporation sold off so many hospitals at one time, in one region,” Frommer said. “The 14 hospitals in Los Angeles County alone house more than 3,000 beds, serve more than 100,000

patients and employ thousands of local residents. We need to ensure that our patients, nurses and doctors aren’t thrown out on the street while these hospitals are being sold.”

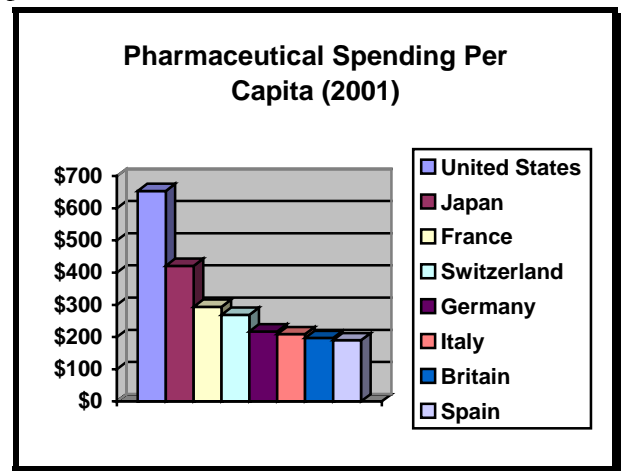
Frommer, who hosted the hearing with state Senator Gloria Romero (D-Los Angeles), Assemblyman Mark Ridley-Thomas (D-Los Angeles) and Assemblywoman Judy Chu (D-Monterey Park), called on Tenet to publicly commit to keeping the 19 hospitals it is selling open and operational until suitable buyers are found. ♦

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drugs, an increase of 15.3% over the previous year.

Frommer’s AB 1957 would require the California Board of Pharmacy to establish a Web site providing price comparisons between American and Canadian pharmaceutical prices and links to Canadian pharmacies certified for safety by the state.

Assembly Bill 1958 by Frommer would increase California’s purchasing power by pooling together state agencies, and possibly HMOs and businesses, that buy prescription drugs and giving California the ability to negotiate more aggressively for lower prices. ♦



## *Other News in Brief*

**Frommer pushes for restoration of funding for juvenile probation programs**

**(SACRAMENTO, CA)** – Assemblyman Dario Frommer (D-Glendale) and Assemblywoman Sharon Runner (R-Lancaster) called on Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger to reconsider a provision

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in his January budget which cuts \$134.3 million from California's juvenile probation camps programs, a proposal that would release roughly 8,000 juvenile offenders back on the streets by October 2004.

"The Governor's proposal makes devastating cuts to a program that works to rehabilitate juveniles and return them to communities where they have a chance to lead productive lives," Frommer said. "The Governor's cuts leave us two untenable alternatives: incarcerate these juvenile delinquents in California Youth Authority, an extremely expensive and inappropriate option for them, or release them back on the streets."

#### **Assemblyman co-authors bill to make Megan's Law one of strongest in country**

**(SACRAMENTO, CA)** – California could establish one of the toughest Megan's Law in the nation, according to a bill co-authored by Assemblyman Dario Frommer (D-Glendale) and Assemblywoman Nicole Parra (D-Bakersfield).

The bill, which passed out of the Assembly with a 73-2 vote, would establish a Megan's Law database

Web site which California's families and parents could use to protect children against the 83,000 convicted sex offenders that live and work statewide. The bill would also allow judges to require that even more information about sex offenders be disclosed on a case-by-case basis.

#### **Glendale DMV adds staff after Assemblyman requests wait times be reduced**

**(GLENDALE, CA)** – After the Glendale field office of the Department of Motor Vehicles was cited in a state report as one of the three worst DMV offices in the state, Assemblyman Dario Frommer (D-Glendale) requested that the office make a report explaining why its situation is so "abysmal."

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*"My constituents rely very heavily on that DMV location, and they shouldn't be receiving services that are below the performance level of any other field offices in the state," Frommer said.*

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Frommer also asked that the office make a plan of action to cure the situation, making its service equivalent to other Los Angeles County DMV offices.

In response to Frommer's request, the Glendale DMV office has added 8 new staffers. ♦